

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of performing network management on a network device comprising:
 - receiving a request to perform a network management task on a network device;
 - loading a network management application capable of performing the network management task onto the network device in response to the request; and
 - executing the network management application corresponding to the requested network management task.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - providing a result from executing the network management application to a network management system used to manage the network.
3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - broadcasting a result from executing the network management application over a network to other network devices capable of monitoring and processing the result.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein loading a network management application further comprises:
 - accessing an application server having the network management application capable of performing the network management task; and
 - downloading the network management application over a network from the application server to the network device.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein loading a network management application further comprises:
 - determining if the network management application capable of performing the network management task is resident in a storage area on the network device in response to the request;
 - accessing an application server having the network management application capable of performing the network management task depending on the determination; and
 - downloading the network management application over a network from the application server to the network device depending on the determination.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the network management task requested includes monitoring traffic on a nearby network; and

notifying a network management system (NMS) when the traffic on the nearby network becomes inactive or increases beyond a particular threshold.

7. An apparatus for performing network management on a network device comprising:

5 a receiver module configured to receive a request to perform a network management task on a network device;

a loader module configured to load a network management application capable of performing the network management task onto the network device in response to the request; and

10 an execution module configured to execute the network management application corresponding to the requested network management task.

8. The apparatus of claim 7 further comprising:

a module that provides a result from executing the network management application to a network management system used to manage the network.

9. The apparatus of claim 7 further comprising:

a broadcast module configured to broadcast a result from executing the network management application over a network to other network devices capable of monitoring and processing the result.

10. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the loader module further comprises:

an access module configured to access an application server having the network management application capable of performing the network management task; and

a download module configured to download the network management application over a network from the application server to the network device.

11. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the loader module further comprises:

25 a determination module configured to determine if the network management application capable of performing the network management task is resident in a storage area on the network device in response to the request;

an access module configured to access an application server having the network management application capable of performing the network management task depending on the determination; and

30 a download module configured to download the network management application

over a network from the application server to the network device depending on the determination.

12. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the network manage task requested comprises:

5 module configured to monitor traffic on a nearby network; and
a notification module configured to notify a network management system (NMS) when the traffic on the nearby network becomes inactive or increases beyond a particular threshold.

10 13. An apparatus for performing network management on a network device comprising:

15 a processor; and
a memory containing instructions when executed cause the processor to receive a request to perform a network management task on a network device, load a network management application capable of performing the network management task onto the network device in response to the request, execute the network management application corresponding to the requested network management task.

20 14. An apparatus for performing network management on a network device comprising:

25 means for receiving a request to perform a network management task on a network device;
means for loading a network management application capable of performing the network management task onto the network device in response to the request; and
means for executing the network management application corresponding to the requested network management task.

30 15. A computer program product for performing network management on a network device, the product comprising program code instructions to cause a processor to:

 receive a request to perform a network management task on a network device;
 load a network management application capable of performing the network management task onto the network device in response to the request; and
 execute the network management application corresponding to the requested network management task.